



## RTCA in Illinois

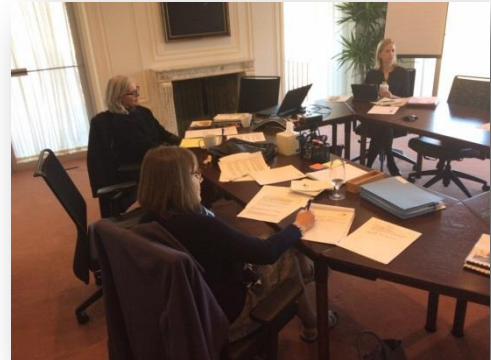
The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Illinois offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Illinois will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Chicago Heights Trails Stewardship** – The project goal is to build a community corps to be a trail and community stewardship organization, and connect citizens with Old Plank Road Trail development and bike planning initiatives. (Location: Chicago Heights, Illinois)
- **Danville Trails - Kickapoo Rail Trail Connection** – The project goal is to create a trail plan that connects residents to two regional parks and existing trails. The plan details include quality of life amenities and economic development along the Vermilion River and public access to healthy activities and the natural environment. (Location: Danville, Illinois)
- **Great Migration Trails** – The project goal is to implement initial Great Migration Trails planning through partnerships with Chicago Park District, Slow Roll Chicago, and local stakeholders along the Burnham Wildlife Corridor, throughout Bronzeville and connecting with Pullman National Monument. (Location: Chicago, Illinois)
- **Illinois-Wisconsin Fox River Water Trail** – The project goal is to create a well-designed, well-managed water trail on the entire Fox River to provide suitable access to the public for their enjoyment of the quietude, scenic beauty, and historical and cultural features of the river. (Location: Lisbon, Wisconsin to Ottawa, Illinois)
- **Lake Michigan Trails Network** – The project goal is to provide access to Lake Michigan in four states by planning recreation travel modes, and marketing the trail for increased tourism and economic development opportunities. (Location: Lake Michigan Shoreline)
- **Mississippi River Connections Collaborative/ Geotourism** – The project goal is to increase recognition of America's Great River, enhance the existing resources, acquire funding for conservation and development, and ensure that all Americans can enjoy these assets in the future. (Location: Mississippi River, from its headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico)



Group collaboratively planning the Fox River Water Trail

- **Wolf Lake Bi-State Planning** – The project goal is to continue to facilitate bi-state conversations on natural resources, water quality, and recreation opportunities around Wolf Lake based on previous visioning and new strategic planning. (Location: Chicago, Illinois)

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Illinois contact:

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